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Turi Tribe

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Program for Culture and Conflict Studies

TURI TRIBE

The Program for Culture & Conflict Studies

Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, CA

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PRIMARY LOCATION

The Turi generally reside on the western and central portion of the Kurram Valley.¹ They are located in the Upper Kurram district of the Kurram Agency in the villages of Peiwar, Berki, Krakhela, Kachkena, Malana, Bilymin, Alizai and the Road Ghara.² They are reportedly the dominant tribe in the Kurram Valley.³

KEY TERRAIN FEATURES

Valleys: Kurram Valley, Daradar Valley

Plains: Parachinar Plateau Mountains: Kuh-e Sefid Rivers: Kurram River

Dams: Maulana Dam, Zeran Dam, Kot Ragha Dam Malikhel

The Kurram Agency is divided into three sub-divisions: Upper, Lower, and Central Kurram. The upper and lower divisions have long been administered and are subject to the Frontier Crimes Regulation, Kohat Pact, and tribal law. The central division, however, is still largely inaccessible, and development in this region lags behind the other two. Though each of the three divisions are headed by Assistant Political Agents, administration of Central Kurram is headed by tribal elders.⁴

WEATHER

Average winter low temperatures are in the low-30s (Fahrenheit), while average summer high temperatures reach the high-80s. The agency receives approximately 30 inches of rain over a year, most falling during the spring.⁵

RELIGION/SECT

The Turi are the only Pashtun tribe that is entirely Shia Muslim. As Shia, their primary points of pilgrimage are Karbala and Mashhad with Mecca ranking third.⁶

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Turis are Ghurghusht Pathans of the Kakai Karlanri branch.⁷ In 1965, the Turi population was estimated to be approximately 25,000.⁸

¹ H.A. Rose, A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes, Volume 3, (New Delhi: Amar Prakashan, 1980), 474; "Kurram Agency,"

<http://waziristanhills.com/FATA/AgenciesFRs/KurramAgency/tabid/80/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

² H.A. Rose, A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes, Volume 3, (New Delhi: Amar Prakashan, 1980), 474.

³ "Tribes of Kurram," <http://www.parachinar.net/tribes.htm>

⁴ "More than a Dozen Killed in Northwestern Pakistan Unrest," Dawn News, December 30, 2007, <http://www.dawn.com/2007/12/30/welcome.htm>

⁵ Weather Underground, <http://www.wunderground.com/NORMS/DisplayIntlNORMS.asp?CityCode=41560&Units=english>

⁶ Ibid, 475.

⁷ "Tribes of Kurram," <http://www.parachinar.net/tribes.htm>

⁸ Arnold Fletcher, Afghanistan Highway of Conquest, (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1965), 296.

FEUDS

As the Turi are the only all-Shia Pashtun tribe there is likely constant tension between them and the Sunni tribes of the Kurram Agency. Their most recent feud has been with the Sunni Mangal during 2007 and 2008.⁹ This feud resulted in at least 2,000 deaths.¹⁰

Also, as the supplanted the Bangash tribe from the Kurram Valley upon their arrival, lingering animosity between the two tribes occasionally turns to violence.¹¹

UNITY & SECURITY

The Turi are reportedly part of the “Pakistani Awakening” and have taken action to rid their area of militants.

RELATIONSHIP WITH TALIBAN/AL-QAEDA

The Turi are hostile towards the TTP and have asked for government forces to assist them in removing TTP and Al Qaeda elements from the Kurram Agency.¹²

⁹ “More than a Dozen Killed in Northwestern Pakistan Unrest,” Dawn News, December 30, 2007, <http://www.dawn.com/2007/12/30/welcome.htm>

¹⁰ “Jirga vows to Fight Sectarian Violence in Kurram,” Dawn News, September 25, 2008, <http://www.dawn.com/2008/09/25/rss.ht>

¹¹ “Parachinar: Six Killed in Kurram,” Dawn News, September, 10, 2008, <http://www.dawn.com/2008/09/10/local31.htm>

¹² “Pakistan Awakening Also Taking Hold in Kurram Agency,” <http://strata-sphere.com/blog/index.php/archives/5782>; “47 Killed in Fresh Kurram Clashes,” Dawn News, August 18, 2008, <http://www.dawn.com/2008/08/18/top3.htm>